



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1995

No. 54

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Remind us, O God, of the privilege of public service, a calling to represent people with wisdom and diligence and perseverance. May not the difficulties of any time cause us to lose the vision of those goals that unite us as one people, of those ideals that express our expectations and our yearning for justice. Give each person, gracious God, the strength of character and the integrity of the heart, that will enable us to be the people You would have us be. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. GUTIERREZ] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUTIERREZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair wishes to announce that there will be 20 1-minute on each side.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, for too long, this institution has lost faith because we have been unable to restore the integrity of this institution. But we are here now to restore the—

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman suspend. The Chair notes a disturbance in the Visitors Gallery in contravention of the law and the rules of the House.

The doormen and police will remove from the gallery those persons participating in the disturbance.

The Chair will re-recognize for his full time the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. TIAHRT. I thank the Speaker. I did not realize I would have such an impact on the audience today.

The SPEAKER. The Chair commends the gentleman from Kansas who can arouse such spirit of interest but recommends he start over.

Mr. TIAHRT. I thank the Speaker.

Mr. TIAHRT. For too long, Mr. Speaker, America has lost faith in this institution, because we were unable to focus on the integrity that is required on the floor of the House. We are here to restore faith in this institution, in America. Our Contract With America on the very first day of Congress changed the way business was done. We required Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else. We cut committee staffs by one-third. We cut the congressional budget.

Then during the first 100 days we have gone on to keep our promises: a balanced budget amendment; unfunded mandate legislation; line-item veto; a new crime package to stop violent criminals; National Security Restoration Act to protect our freedoms; Gov-

ernment regulatory reform, and commonsense legal reform.

We are now working on welfare reform so that we can encourage work, restore hope in people and not dependence on the Government. We are working on it now. We hope to have it passed by this week. We are cracking down on deadbeat dads.

In the near future we are going to be dealing with tax cuts for middle-American families.

There is going to be a Senior Citizens Equity Act, congressional term limits, all are going to be dealt with.

We are here to restore faith in this institution for the American public.

This is our Contract With America, Mr. Speaker.

TERM LIMITS

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I want to send a special message to the people of the Sixth District in Georgia. I want to inform you that your Congressman, Mr. GINGRICH—whom you first elected in 1978—supports limiting members to 12 years of service.

In a press conference endorsing the 12-year limit, the Speaker, now in his 17th year, said: "The balance of power in favor of professional politicians as incumbents * * * has made a mockery of the process of open elections."

So, that must mean that each election held in Georgia's Sixth District since 1990, when Mr. GINGRICH's 12 years were up, has been a mockery.

If I lived in Georgia, I'd be concerned to hear that I had voted in a "mockery" of an election. In fact, three of them, since 1990.

But, there is a remedy. No, not a special election, and, no, we don't have to ask President Carter to monitor the elections, even though he lives right

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H3575

there. The solution is real term limits, retroactive term limits. Now, it is hard work to be the Speaker, but, it should not be too much trouble to actually live by the words that you speak.

CHANGING THE FAILED WELFARE SYSTEM

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, one of our liberal Democratic colleagues, the gentleman from California [Mr. MARTINEZ], said during the general debate Tuesday that the welfare system was originally conceived to help children.

If that is the case, there has never been a clearer example of unintended consequences. For it is a sad fact that the current welfare system has been a disaster for children. Study after study shows that children on welfare do worse in school, are more likely to have other developmental problems, and are three times as likely as the average child to end up on welfare themselves.

Yet my liberal colleagues constantly parade to the floor to defend a system, their system, that has produced nothing but misery.

What do the liberals have against work? What do they have against personal responsibility? Why do they defend a system that has resulted in an explosion of illegitimacy in this country?

The American people are fed up with an immoral system that rewards personally destructive behavior. But this week, we finally begin to change the welfare system.

SUCCESSFUL WELFARE ALUMNI

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, we Democrats are for welfare reform, but we are for meaningful welfare reform. We are not for mean-spirited, radical welfare reform. We are not for taking food away from children and infants and giving it to millionaires, because that is what they do.

They take the \$70 billion that they cut from school lunch, from AFDC, from the food stamp bill, and they are going to give it to the millionaires and the big corporations.

I have heard anecdotal statements down here on the floor from that side about what kind of welfare mother we have out there. I want to tell you about some welfare mothers. I am going to give you names. I have not heard one name from that aside.

I am going to give you the name of Ms. Keneetha Jackson, I am going to give you the name of Ms. Reba Brown, and I am going to give you the name of Ms. Shauntel Freelon.

All three of them used to be on welfare, all three of them are no longer on welfare, and Keneetha come May gets a B.A. in business administration from

the University of Missouri, my alma mater. She has worked her way out of it. She does not want to be on welfare.

That is the Democratic proposal. Get them off of welfare. Help them out.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, for years the American people have demanded that Washington reform welfare.

For years politicians have talked about reforming welfare.

But for years liberal politicians blocked consideration of an overhaul of our welfare system.

What a difference an election makes.

Before the Republicans were even elected, we promised America that we would reform the welfare state if we were elected to the majority.

Today we are keeping our word. We are replacing a system that abuses children, ensnares generations in dependency, and subsidizes illegitimacy and destructive behavior with billions of taxpayer dollars.

The Republican plan will put millions of people now on welfare back on payrolls. Our bill encourages families and stops paying kids to have kids. We will give power to the States so they can develop local solutions to local poverty problems.

The President may speak about ending welfare as we know it, but it took Republicans to actually turn those words into real and responsible legislative action.

Remember today, actions speak louder than words.

CONGRESS TURNS BACK ON GROWING TRADE DEFICIT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. January's trade deficit hit a record \$12.3 billion, ladies and gentlemen.

This is absurd. Everyone in this body knows Japan rips us off. Mexico and China literally have slave labor wages. And Congress debates welfare. Congress debates budgets. Congress turns its back on the trade deficit.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Congress of the United States has betrayed the American worker. Harry Truman is rolling over in his grave.

I have never had one constituent ask me for welfare. My constituents want a job. It is a sad day in America when Congress turns its back and allows White House after White House to make false threats and do absolutely nothing.

Shame, Congress. Jobs is a 4-letter word but it is not a dirty word and it is time we start digging into it.

WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, we must remember that the American people sent us to Washington to downsize and streamline the Federal Government. Working people have consistently paid more taxes each year to combat the war on poverty—which we are losing.

The current system offers benefits to a record 14.3 million people, a 31-percent increase from 1989, which costs taxpayers \$325 billion. Our proposal will save taxpayers \$66.3 billion over 5 years by streamlining the administrative end and transferring authority over to the States.

This outdated and bureaucratic-laden system subsidizes illegitimacy, breaks up families, and promotes personally destructive behavior.

Let us continue fighting for the taxpayers of America and pass this much needed welfare reform bill.

SCHOOL LUNCH

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are for cutting spending and cutting the deficit, but do we really have to start with children?

There has been a lot of discussion about how much the Republican plan would cut the School Lunch Program. So when I went home this weekend, I went right to the source. I had lunch with the students at the Dutile Elementary School in Billerica, MA. They filled me in on the missing details.

According to school administrators, the Republican plan would cut \$210,000 a year from the Billerica school lunch program which means that 600 students who now get free or reduced lunches will have to find some other way to make up the difference.

Chicken sandwiches and carrot sticks may not seem like much to some Members of Congress who are used to dining out with lobbyists at Morton's eating thick, juicy steaks. But for the kids at the Dutile Elementary School, school lunch is often the only way to get through their day.

There are plenty of places to cut spending on entitlements that will not hurt kids, but instead of cutting the wealthy by closing corporate welfare tax breaks, the Republican plan takes money away from low-income school children and hands it over to people making \$100,000 a year.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION'S TIME HAS PASSED

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, of all of the destructive ideas invented by the American left, none has been more